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Serial No: 09/848,753
Page 2

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

A Claim 1 (currently amended) An incoming telephone call blocking device associated with a telephone line operatively associated with a user's telephone, said blocking device comprising:

means for setting an activation period for activating blocking of incoming telephone calls; said activation period including a user entered starting time for blocking of incoming telephone calls

means for requesting a caller during the activation period to enter a code for passing the incoming telephone calls;

means for determining if a correct code has been entered by the caller; and

means for allowing an incoming telephone call of the caller to pass through during the activation period where it is determined that the caller has entered a correct code.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 1 wherein when not in the activation period the user's telephone is connected with the telephone line through the closing of a series switch; wherein when blocking has been activated the user's telephone is disconnected from the telephone line by the opening of the series switch and closing of a first vertical switch and a second vertical switch

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 2 further comprising a means for detecting an incoming telephone call when blocking has been activated.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 4 wherein said means for detecting is a ring detector in

Applicant: Jeffrey N. Weiss
Serial No: 09/848,753
Page 3

A communication with the first vertical switch and with a microprocessor; wherein upon detection of an incoming telephone call by said ring detector said microprocessor activates said means for requesting by closing an answer switch which also answers the incoming telephone call.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 1 wherein said means for requesting is a voice response unit and a tone receiver which inform the caller that blocking has been activated and requests the caller to enter a code to allow the caller's incoming telephone call to pass through.

Claim 9 (original) The telephone call blocking device of claim 1 further comprising means for disconnecting the incoming telephone call if the correct code has not been entered within a predetermined time period.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 1 further comprising means for alerting a person that an approved incoming telephone call has been received during the activation period, said means for alerting independent from a ringing bell of a user's phone

Claim 11 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 10 wherein said means for alerting is a localized ringing signal associated with a speaker and means for producing an audible sound through said speaker, said speaker and means for producing independent from the ringing bell of the user's phone

Claim 12 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 10 further comprising means for detecting deactivating said means for alerting when the user's telephone is picked up to answer a passed incoming telephone call during the activation period, answered, said means for detecting causing said series switch to close and said first vertical switch and said second vertical switch

Applicant: Jeffrey N. Weiss
Serial No: 09/848,753
Page 4

to open, which connects the previously disconnected user's telephone to the telephone line.

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Claim 13 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 12 wherein said ~~means for activating~~ activation period further including a user entered ending time for blocking of incoming telephone calls ~~means for setting a reference time and a beginning and ending time period~~

Claim 14 (currently amended) The telephone call blocking device of claim 12³ further comprising means for reactivating blocking of incoming telephone calls once the user's telephone is hung up if still within the ~~beginning and ending time~~ user entered activation period.

Claim 15 (currently amended) An incoming telephone call blocking device associated with a telephone line operatively associated with a user's telephone, said blocking device comprising:
means for setting an activation period having a user entered beginning time and a user entered ending time period for activating blocking of incoming telephone calls;

wherein when not in the activation period the user's telephone is connected with the telephone line through the closing of a series switch; wherein when blocking has been activated the user's telephone is disconnected from the telephone line by the opening of the series switch and closing of a first vertical switch and a second vertical switch;

a ring detector for sensing an incoming telephone call when blocking has been activated, said ring detector in communication with the telephone line through the first vertical switch which is in a closed position when blocking is at least initially activated;

a microprocessor in communication with said ring detector;

means for requesting a caller to enter a code for passing the incoming telephone call, wherein upon detection of an incoming

Applicant: Jeffrey N. Weiss
Serial No: 09/848,753
Page 5

telephone call by said ring detector said microprocessor activates said means for requesting by closing an answer switch which also answers the incoming telephone call;

means for determining if a correct code has been ~~ent~~ered by the caller; and

A means for allowing an incoming telephone call of the caller to pass through where it is determined that the caller has entered a correct code;

means for disconnecting the incoming telephone call if the correct code has not been en tered within a predetermined time period;

a speaker;

means for generating a n audible sound through said speaker ~~localized ringing signal which is associated with a speaker~~ to inform a user that an incoming telephone call has been passed through, said means for generating independent from a ringing bell of a user's phone; and

means for detecting ~~deactivating said means for alerting when~~ the user's telephone is picked up to answer a passed incoming telephone call during the activation period, answered, said means for detecting causing said series switch to close and said first vertical switch and said second vertical switch to open, which connects the previously disconnected user's telephone to the telephone line ~~wherein when blocking has been activated the user's telephone is disconnected from the telephone line by a first switch;~~

~~wherein upon sensing of an incoming telephone call by said ring detector said microprocessor activates said means for requesting by closing a second switch.~~

Claim 16 (original) The telephone call blocking device of claim 15 wherein said means for requesting is a voice response unit and a tone receiver which inform the caller that blocking has been

Applicant: Jeffrey N. Weiss
Serial No: 09/848,753
Page 6

activated and request the caller to enter a code to allow the caller's incoming telephone call to pass through.

A Claim 17 (currently amended) A method for automatically and selectively blocking incoming telephone calls during a user entered activation period, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) setting an activation period for activating blocking of incoming telephone calls including entering a starting time for the activation period by the user;

(b) requesting a caller to enter a code for passing the incoming telephone calls;

(c) determining if a correct code has been entered by the caller;

(d) allowing an incoming telephone call of the caller to pass through where it is determined that the caller has entered the correct code; and

(e) repeating steps (b) through (d) for all subsequent incoming telephone calls during the user entered activation period ~~while blocking is activated~~.

Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of disconnecting the incoming telephone call if the correct code has not been entered within a predetermined time period.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of alerting a person that an approved incoming telephone call has been received independent from a ringing bell of a user's telephone.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of alerting comprises creating a n audible sound through a speaker which is independent from the ringing bell of the user's telephone ~~localized audible sound~~.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of means for deactivating said localized audible sound when

Applicant: Jeffrey N. Weiss
Serial No: 09/848,753
Page 7

the user's telephone is answered.

A Claim 22 (currently amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of reactivating blocking of incoming telephone calls once the user's telephone is hung up if still within the activation time period.

Claim 23 (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of setting the correct time of day prior to step (a).

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein step (a) further includes ~~the entering step of setting~~ an ending time for the activation period by the user ~~deactivating blocking~~.

Claim 26 (original) The method of claim 17 where in step (c) also includes determining if the correct code is entered during the designated period assigned to the code.

Claim 27 (new) The telephone call blocking device of claim 1 wherein said activation period including one or more user entered dates.

Claim 28 (new) The telephone call blocking device of claim 15 wherein said activation period including one or more user entered dates.

Claim 29 (new) The method of claim 17 wherein setting an activation period of step (a) further including entering one ~~more~~ dates by the user.
